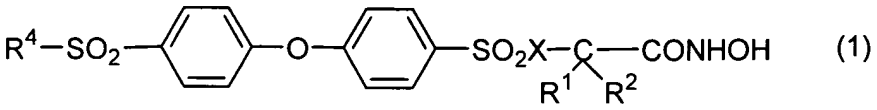
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (**Currently amended**) A hydroxamic acid compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which is represented by the following formula (1),



(1)

wherein R^1 and R^2 are each independently hydrogen atom, optionally substituted lower alkyl group, or lower haloalkyl group, or R^1 and R^2 are bound together to form C2~7 straight alkylene group, or a group represented by a formula, $-(CH_2)m-Y-(CH_2)q-$ (wherein Y is -O-, $-NR^5-$, -S-, -SO-, or $-SO_2-$, m and q are each independently an integer of 1 to 5, and the total of m and q are 2~6, and R^5 is hydrogen atom, optionally substituted lower alkyl group, optionally substituted lower alkylcarbonyl group, optionally substituted lower alkoxycarbonyl group, optionally substituted lower alkylsulfonyl group, optionally substituted sulfamoyl group or optionally substituted carbamoyl group), X is methylene group or NR^3 (wherein R^3 is hydrogen atom, or optionally substituted lower alkyl group), and R^4 is C1~4 lower alkyl group,

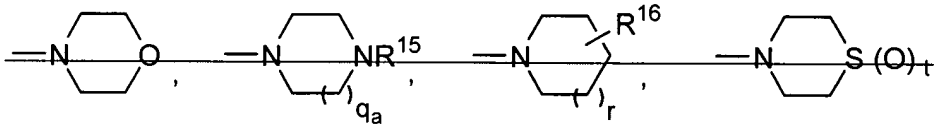
wherein a substituent of the lower alkyl groups in R^1 and R^2 is selected from the group consisting of halogen atom, hydroxy group, cyano group, lower alkoxy group, lower alkylthio group, lower alkylsulfinyl group, lower alkylsulfonyl group, lower cycloalkyl group, optionally substituted aryl group, ~~optionally substituted heteroaryl group,~~ optionally substituted aryloxy group, ~~optionally substituted heteroaryloxy group,~~ optionally substituted arylthio group, ~~optionally substituted heteroarylthio group,~~ optionally substituted arylsulfonyl group, ~~optionally substituted heteroarylsulfonyl group~~ and $-NR^{17}R^{18}$;

a substituent of the lower alkyl group in R^3 is selected from the group consisting of carboxy group, hydroxy group, lower haloalkyl group, lower haloalkoxy group, cyano group, lower alkylcarbonyl group, lower alkylcarbonyloxy group, lower alkoxycarbonyl group, $-CONR^{11}R^{12}$, $-SO_2NR^{11}R^{12}$, $-NHCONR^{11}R^{12}$, $-NR^{13}COR^{14}$, $-NR^{13}SO_2R^{14}$, optionally substituted aryl group, ~~optionally substituted heteroaryl group,~~ optionally substituted aryloxy group, ~~optionally substituted heteroaryloxy group,~~ optionally substituted arylthio group, optionally substituted arylcarbonyl group, ~~optionally substituted heteroarylcarbonyl group, optionally~~

~~substituted heteroarylthio group,~~ arylsulfonyl group, ~~optionally substituted heteroarylsulfonyl group,~~ lower alkoxy group, lower alkylthio group, lower alkylsulfinyl group and lower alkylsulfonyl group, wherein each of above four groups is optionally substituted by a group selected from the group consisting of optionally substituted aryl group, ~~optionally substituted heteroaryl group,~~ lower alkoxy group, carbamoyl group substituted by 1 or 2 lower alkyl groups, and carbamoyl group substituted by lower cycloalkyl group;

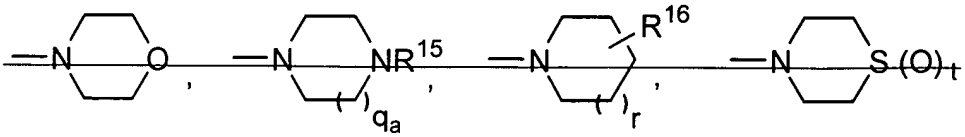
a substituent of the lower alkyl group, lower alkylcarbonyl group, lower alkoxycarbonyl group, or lower alkylsulfonyl group in R^5 is selected from the group consisting of lower alkoxy group, lower cycloalkoxy group and aryloxy group;

a substituent of the carbamoyl group and sulfamoyl group in R^5 is selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl group and lower alkoxy group; ~~and the said two substituents may bind with the adjacent nitrogen atom to form a structure selected from the group consisting of the following formulas:~~



~~wherein q_a is an integer of 1 or 2, r is an integer of 0~2, t is an integer of 0~2, R^{15} is lower alkyl group, lower alkylcarbonyl group, lower alkylsulfonyl group, or lower alkoxycarbonyl group, and R^{16} is carboxy group, hydroxy group, lower alkoxy group, lower alkylcarbonyloxy group, lower alkylcarbonyl group, lower alkoxycarbonyl group, or carbamoyl group optionally substituted by 1 to 2 lower alkyl groups;~~

R^{11} and R^{12} are each independently hydrogen atom, lower alkyl group, or lower alkyl group substituted by lower alkoxy group; ~~, or $NR^{11}R^{12}$ is a structure selected from the group consisting of the following formulas,~~



~~wherein q_a, r, t, R^{15} and R^{16} are the same as defined above;~~

R^{13} and R^{14} are each independently hydrogen atom, or lower alkyl group;

R^{17} is hydrogen atom or lower alkyl group, and R^{18} is hydrogen atom, lower alkyl group,

lower alkylcarbonyl group, lower alkoxycarbonyl group, or lower alkylsulfonyl group; and

a substituent of the aryl group, aryloxy group, arylthio group, arylcarbonyl group, arylcarbamoyl group, and arylsulfonyl group~~, heteroaryl group, heteroaryloxy group, heteroarylthio group, heteroarylcarbonyl group, and heteroarylsulfonyl group are~~ is selected from the group consisting of halogen atom, cyano group, hydroxy group, carboxy group, lower haloalkyl group, lower haloalkoxy group, lower alkoxy group, lower alkylthio group, lower alkylsulfinyl group, lower alkylsulfonyl group, lower cycloalkyl group, lower alkoxycarbonyl group, $-CONR^{11}R^{12}$, $-SO_2NR^{11}R^{12}$ (wherein R^{11} and R^{12} are the same as defined above), $-NR^{13}COR^{14}$, $-NR^{13}SO_2R^{14}$ (wherein R^{13} and R^{14} are the same as defined above), $-NR^{17}R^{18}$ (wherein R^{17} and R^{18} are the same as defined above), and lower alkyl group optionally substituted by the group consisting of lower alkoxy group, lower alkylthio group, lower alkylsulfinyl group, lower alkylsulfonyl group, lower alkylcarbonyl group,lower alkoxycarbonyl group, lower alkylcarbonyloxy group, cyano group, carboxy group, hydroxy group,$-NR^{17}R^{18}$ (wherein R^{17} and R^{18} are the same as defined above), $-CONR^{11}R^{12}$, $-SO_2NR^{11}R^{12}$ (wherein R^{11} and R^{12} are the same as defined above), $-NR^{13}COR^{14}$, and $-NR^{13}SO_2R^{14}$ (wherein R^{13} and R^{14} are the same as defined above).

2. (**Previously presented**) The hydroxamic acid compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof of the formula (1) according to claim 1, wherein R^1 and R^2 are each independently hydrogen atom, or C1~3 lower alkyl group.

3. (**Previously presented**) The hydroxamic acid compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof of the formula (1) according to claim 1, wherein R^1 and R^2 are bound together to form C3~5 alkylene group.

4. (**Previously presented**) The hydroxamic acid compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof of the formula (1) according to claim 1, wherein R^1 and R^2 are bound together to form a group represented by the formula, $-(CH_2)m-Y-(CH_2)q-$.

5. **(Previously presented)** The hydroxamic acid compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof of the formula (1) according to claim 4, wherein m and q are respectively 2 in the formula, $-(CH_2)m-Y-(CH_2)q-$.

6. **(Currently amended)** The hydroxamic acid compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof of the formula (1) according to claim 1, wherein X is $N-R^3$, and the R^3 is hydrogen atom, C1~4 lower alkyl group, carboxy group, phenyl group (the said phenyl group may be substituted by lower alkyl group, lower alkoxy group or halogen atom), ~~2-pyridyl group, 3-pyridyl group, 4-pyridyl group, furyl group, thienyl group (the said pyridyl group, furyl group and thienyl group may be substituted by lower alkyl group),~~ or C1~4 lower alkyl group substituted by lower alkoxycarbonyl group, lower alkoxy group or lower cycloalkoxy group.

7. **(Canceled)**

8. **(Previously presented)** The hydroxamic acid compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof of the formula (1) according to claim 1, wherein X is methylene group and R^1 and R^2 are bound together to form C3~4 straight alkylene group or $-(CH_2)_2-O-(CH_2)_2-$.

9. **(Previously presented)** The hydroxamic acid compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof of the formula (1) according to claim 1, wherein R^4 is methyl group.

10. **(Previously presented)** The hydroxamic acid compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof of the formula (1) according to claim 1, wherein R^1 and R^2 are each independently, hydrogen atom or C1~4 lower alkyl group, or R^1 and R^2 are bound together to form C3~4 straight alkylene group or a formula, $-(CH_2)_2-Y-(CH_2)_2-$, X is $N-R^3$, and the R^3 is hydrogen atom, C1~4 lower alkyl group, carboxy group, phenyl group (the said phenyl group may be substituted by lower alkyl group, lower alkoxy group or halogen atom), C1~4 lower alkyl group substituted by lower alkoxycarbonyl group, lower alkoxy group or cycloalkoxy group, and R^4 is methyl group.

11. **(Previously presented)** The hydroxamic acid compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof of the formula (1) according to in claim 1, wherein R^1 and R^2 are bound together to form C3~4 straight alkylene group or $-(CH_2)_2-O-(CH_2)_2-$, X is $N-R^3$, and the R^3 is C1~4 lower alkyl group which may be substituted by C1~4 lower alkoxy group.

12-15. **(Canceled)**

16. **(Currently amended)** ~~The method according to claim 15~~ A method for treating a disease related to promotion of MMP-3 and/or MMP-13, comprising administering a hydroxamic acid compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1 as an active ingredient to a patient in need thereof, wherein the disease related to promotion of MMP-3 and/or MMP-13 is arthritis.

17. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 16, wherein the arthritis is osteoarthritis or rheumatoid arthritis.

18-19. **(Canceled)**

20. **(Currently amended)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising the hydroxamic acid compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.